Government, No. 6472, dated 23rd December 1910, passing orders on the Report o what is known as the Marumakkathayam Committee, and the Draft Bill appended to the Government order. This Committee was appointed, in February 1908, in pursuance of a request made by several Samanthas and Nairs in the Fourth Session, asking for legislation on certain lines in regard to their personal law. The Committee submitted their Report in August 1908. The Report was issued to the public in the October following. His Highness' Government then allowed the matter to lie over for a time, so as to give to the people belonging to the communities affected an opportunity of expressing their opinions before the Government passed orders. As a wish has now been generally expressed that the opinions of the Samantha and Nair Members of this Assembly should be taken on the provisions of the Draft Bill, His Highness has been pleased to command that this shall be done and that the opinions expressed shall be submitted to him for consideration.

Administration of Justice.

8. The main feature about the administration of Justice was the large increase in the volume of Civil litigation. The number of *fresh* original suits rose from 47,800 to 51,312, and that of appeals from 2,916 to 3,365. The result of the increase of litigation, coming on the top of a substantial volume of congestion already existing in several of the Courts, was that a new District Court and several new Munsiffs' Courts had to be established, and a redistribution had also to be made of the jurisdiction of the existing Courts. These changes all came into operation on the 1st Edavom 1035, so that we have not yet had one year to watch their effect.

Agriculture.

9. The Agricultural Department has continued to do good work. I would specially mention here the progress made by the Department in combating the Cocoanut Palm Disease. The area affected is over 50,000 acres, scattered over 11 taluks. The three most infected centres are Kayancolam, Alleppey and Minachil. His Highness' Government sanctioned a scheme for Kayancolam and the neighbouring villages, and operations have also been since extended to Alleppey. The main features of the scheme are detailed in the Report; and as they are well known to you, I shall not describe them here; but I would content myself with saying that no *real* progress in this direction could be achieved unless the holders of the affected gardens co-operate *effectively* with the officers of the Agricultural Department; and I take this opportunity to press on such of the Members of the Assembly, as have come from the affected areas, the need for giving that co-operation.

Public Works.

10. The outlay on 'Public Works' rose substantially during the year. It amounted to Rs. 28,15,949, against Rs. 23,79,300 in the previous year. Of the total outlay, the Chief Engineer's Department accounted for Rs. 24,98,890, and the Maramat Department for Rs. 3,17,059. The large increase in the expenditure by the Chief Engineer was almost wholly on 'Original Works', due to the number of new works under construction, notably the Alleppey Pier, which alone consumed about Rs. 3 lakhs, also to the outright repairs of a large number of existing communications and buildings. Substantial progress was made during the year, by the Chief Engineer, in finishing several old works. The 'Kodayar Project' continued to make steady

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progress; the capital outlay on the Project was Rs. 4,14,754, the aggregate outlay up to the end of the year being Rs. 58,56,911. The 'Thovala Channel Works' are nearing completion and the 'Erattakara Channel Works' are being pushed on.

11. When addressing the Fifth Session of the Assembly, I mentioned that the Government were aware that the state of communications in North Travancore compared unfavourably with that in the South and that active steps would be taken to redress the balance. The Kottayam Members were then asked to meet, under the presidency of the Chief Engineer, and to frame, in consultation with him, a programme of works. A note, giving information as to the further action taken, in pursuance of that programme, will be now circulated to the Members from North Travancore.

Railway.

12. I have elsewhere referred to the Railway from Shencotta to Quilon. His Highness' Government sanctioned, towards the close of the year, the survey of a line from Quilon to Trivandrum. The survey has been finished. The plans and estimates are awaited from the South Indian Railway Company. The cost of the survey is Rs. 38,000.

Anchal.

13. The Anchal Department continued to work satisfactorily. The number of Anchal offices rose from 181 to 192. A new line was opened from Kumili, *via* the Cardamom Hills, Deviculam and Munnar, to the North Eastern frontier at Chinnar. The total length of the Mail line rose, in consequence, from 1,200 to 1,300 miles. The total number of covers carried by the Anchal rose from 77,83,125 to 86,25,758. The Hundi business and the V. P. business done in the Anchal offices also increased. The system of Revenue Hundies for remitting the Sirkar tax to the Proverthy Cutcherries was introduced as a tentative measure, and it is reported that the public are availing themselves freely of it.

Public Health.

14. Public health was on the whole satisfactory, except for the circumstance that smallpox prevailed in a virulent form in several portions of the State during the year. Though the work of the Vaccination Department showed substantial progress during the year—the total number of vaccinations rising from 83,630 to 1,58,834—it is a matter for regret that the number of deaths from smallpox rose from 1,414 to 5,004. His Highness' Government feel that, in the matter of vaccination, a great deal can be done if non-official gentlemen, such as those who come as Members to this Assembly, would interest themselves in removing the unfortunate prejudice against it which now prevails in most places in the State, especially in Middle and North Travancore. Vaccination has now been made compulsory in the town of Nagercoil, and the Government hope in due course to make it compulsory in other towns also. But, in a matter like this, coercion cannot go far, and I would beg of the Members of the Assembly to interest themselves actively in this matter and to co-operate with the Vaccination Department.

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